

thereof the following: "Section 9 General Welfare of the People. It is the policy of the State that all persons shall have economic security and the opportunity for employment, in order that they may live in decency, dignity, and health. The General Assembly shall continue to implement this policy."

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment is offered by Delegate Kiefer. Is there a second?

DELEGATE BENNETT: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Bennett seconds the amendment.

Delegate Kiefer, do you desire to speak to the amendment?

DELEGATE KIEFER: Mr. Chairman, just briefly to say this: First, the Committee considered this matter at some length and we decided that this would be included as a provision in Recommendation 2 which is not a section that will be necessarily in the Bill of Rights. In other words, we thought of this as part of the general concept of policies of government and would be in the general provisions.

Now, this is not a new concept. I call your attention to Article 43 of the Declaration of Rights as it now exists. It says in part that the legislature ought to encourage the general remuneration of the condition of the people, and we are stating in more modern language the concept that this state is concerned with the general welfare of the people. I have nothing to add to what Delegate Mitchell has so eloquently expressed, and I urge the adoption of the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question arises on the adoption of Amendment No. 14 as a substitute for section 9 of the Committee Recommendation. Is there any discussion?

For what purpose does Delegate Gleason rise?

DELEGATE GLEASON: Mr. Chairman, I want to speak on the proposal.

THE CHAIRMAN: Speak in favor or opposition?

DELEGATE GLEASON: In opposition.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposition to the amendment?

DELEGATE GLEASON: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: You may speak.

DELEGATE GLEASON: Fellow delegates, the remarks that we have just heard from Delegate Mitchell—

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gleason, I should mention to you that the question now is merely the suggestion of this section for the section that is in the Committee Recommendation. It is not a vote on the adoption of the section.

DELEGATE GLEASON: I get the message, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Koger, do you wish to speak to the amendment?

DELEGATE KOGER: I am opposed to the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: You may speak.

DELEGATE KOGER: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I would like very much at this time, if you would listen very carefully to what I am about to say, because you may find to some extent that my discourse will be somewhat different. I would not like to be misquoted or to have my statement be confused.

Today you have a most unusual condition in the United States. Here in the greatest nation in the world you have extremely rich and powerful people and a most desperate people living side by side. The economic system of this free land of enterprise is completely out of balance. The poor need a break and a lift up the ladder. In this recommendation Maryland is being asked to invest in the economic future of the people of this state. This is a laudable thought, even if it is an impossible one.

It is not only that you cannot enforce this recommendation or this amendment, but it may come as a boomerang as it promises a welfare state and I most heartily disapprove of a welfare state.

Minorities have agitated for economic opportunities over and over again, and our fight for economic rights, fair housing, employment opportunities, public accommodations, right to vote, adequate education, right to organize, and the right to consumer protection against bad business practices goes on. I think the government should do something about it. I feel it is doing something about it, and should do even much more.

Still, I do not believe this amendment adds a thing to this question, but I believe that the recommendation may prove to be a haven for lost hopes, lack of industry, ambition, and inspiration.

This is not what I feel we need. This is not the answer to the economic opportunity, whether you live in the Appalachian